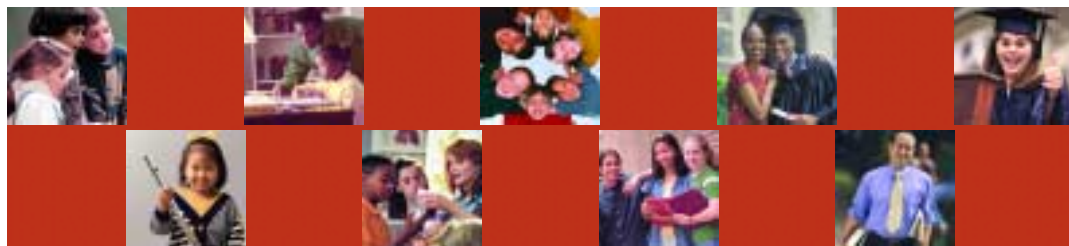


the condition of education 2003



INDICATOR 8

Participation in Adult Education

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2003*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2003*, visit the NCES web site (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2003067>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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Adult Learning

Participation in Adult Education

The percentage of the population age 16 and above participating in adult education increased from 1991 to 2001. Work-related courses and personal interest courses were the most popular forms of adult education in 2001.

In an age of rapid economic and technological change, lifelong learning can provide benefits for individuals and for society as a whole. Lifelong learning activities are formal activities including basic skills training, apprenticeships, work-related courses, personal interest courses, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and college or university credential programs. Excluding “traditional” students (among 16- to 24-year-olds, full-time participation in a college or university credential program was not counted as an adult education activity), participation in adult education among those age 16 and above increased to 47 percent in 2001 from 34 percent in 1991 and from 42 percent in 1995. Among different types of education activities, the percentage of persons age 16 and above (excluding traditional students) participating in a college or university credential program in 2001 was lower than in 1995 and 1999. The percentage of persons participating in work-related courses in 2001 was greater than in 1995 and 1999 (see supplemental table 8-1).

In 2001, 16- to 24-year-olds (excluding traditional students) had a higher rate of participation in adult

education activities than the rest of the population (age 25 and above). They were less likely to participate in work-related courses but more likely to participate in college or university credential programs, personal interest courses, or other activities, including basic skills training, apprenticeships, or ESL.

Among all persons age 16 and above in 2001 (excluding traditional students), work-related courses were the most prevalent form of lifelong learning (30 percent), followed by personal interest courses (21 percent), college or university credential programs (7 percent), and other activities (4 percent). Females had higher rates of both overall participation and participation in personal interest courses than males in 2001. White and Asian/Pacific Islander persons age 16 and above had higher rates of overall participation than their Black and Hispanic peers. Higher educational attainment was associated with participation in overall adult education activities, work-related courses, and personal interest courses (see supplemental table 8-2).

¹Data for 1991 are not available beyond the overall participation rate.

²Among those ages 16–24, full-time participation for all or part of the year in a college or university credential program or a vocational or technical diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

³Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and ESL courses.

NOTE: The survey population includes civilian, noninstitutionalized individuals age 16 and above who are not enrolled in elementary or secondary school. See the glossary for a definition of adult education. Percentages for individual activities do not sum to the overall participation because individuals may participate in multiple activities. There were differences in questionnaire structure, wording, and response options in the 1995, 1999, and 2001 NHES questionnaires that could affect the measurement of course participation. The sample includes individuals who do not speak English, and this is likely to affect the participation rates for Hispanics.

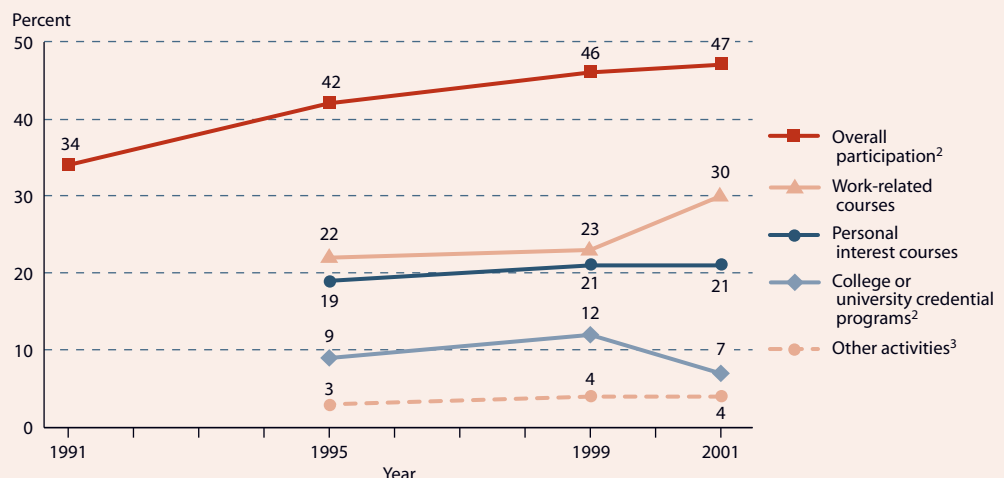
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AELL–NHES:2001), and Adult Education Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AE–NHES:1991, 1995, and 1999), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Notes 1, 3
Supplemental tables 8-1,
8-2

NCES 2002–119

ADULT EDUCATION: Percentage of population age 16 and above who participated in adult education, by type of activity: 1991¹, 1995, 1999, and 2001



Participation in Adult Education

Table 8-1. Percentage of population age 16 and above participating in adult education activities, by type of activity: 1991, 1995, 1999, and 2001

Type of activity	1991	1995	1999	2001
Age 16 and above				
Overall participation ¹	34.2	41.8	45.9	47.4
College or university credential programs ¹	—	8.9	11.7	7.3
Work-related courses	—	21.6	22.7	29.7
Personal interest courses	—	19.1	21.2	21.3
Other activities ²	—	2.9	4.4	3.8
Ages 16–24				
Overall participation ¹	37.7	47.0	50.7	53.2
College or university credential programs ¹	—	12.6	13.6	12.7
Work-related courses	—	16.7	14.8	22.3
Personal interest courses	—	19.8	23.0	27.6
Other activities ²	—	8.7	13.9	13.0
Age 25 and above				
Overall participation	33.7	41.1	45.3	46.6
College or university credential programs	—	8.4	11.4	6.5
Work-related courses	—	22.3	23.8	30.7
Personal interest courses	—	19.1	20.9	20.5
Other activities ²	—	2.1	3.1	2.6

—Data not available for 1991.

¹Among those ages 16–24, full-time participation for all or part of the year in a college or university credential program or a vocational or technical diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

²Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

NOTE: The survey population includes civilian, noninstitutionalized individuals age 16 and above who are not enrolled in elementary or secondary school. See the glossary for a definition of adult education. Percentages for individual activities do not sum to the overall participation because individuals may participate in multiple activities. There were differences in questionnaire structure, wording, and response options in the 1995, 1999, and 2001 NHES questionnaires that could affect the measurement of course participation.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AELL–NHES:2001), and Adult Education Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AE–NHES:1991, 1995, and 1999), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Participation in Adult Education

Table 8-2. Percentage of population age 16 and above participating in adult education activities, by type of activity and personal characteristics: 2001

Characteristic	Overall participation ¹	Type of adult education activity			
		College or university credential programs ¹	Work-related courses	Personal interest courses	Other activities ²
Total	47.4	7.3	29.7	21.3	3.8
Sex					
Male	44.0	7.0	29.0	16.3	4.5
Female	50.5	7.5	30.4	25.9	3.3
Race/ethnicity³					
Asian/Pacific Islander	52.3	‡	34.3	18.2	‡
Black	43.9	7.5	23.4	25.7	4.5
White	48.3	7.0	31.7	21.6	2.4
Hispanic	42.9	7.1	21.6	16.3	12.2
Education					
Less than high school	22.2	0.6	5.7	10.7	10.4
High school diploma or equivalent	34.2	4.0	19.6	15.4	2.7
Some college, including vocational/technical	58.8	11.7	36.5	26.2	3.8
Bachelor's degree or higher	68.1	10.9	50.6	30.4	1.4
Age					
16–24	53.2	12.7	22.3	27.6	13.0
25–34	56.4	15.5	35.1	20.7	6.0
35–44	54.6	7.1	40.9	19.8	3.2
45–54	54.0	4.8	41.4	22.5	1.8
55–64	37.9	‡	23.1	20.5	‡
65 and above	21.4	‡	4.2	18.6	‡
Household income					
\$15,000 or less	28.4	4.5	10.7	15.5	6.4
\$15,001–30,000	35.8	6.6	16.7	16.5	5.8
\$30,001–50,000	48.0	8.3	29.0	21.4	3.9
\$50,001–75,000	56.3	8.0	39.2	24.3	2.3
More than \$75,000	60.3	7.9	44.6	26.2	1.9
Employment/occupation					
Employed in past 12 months	55.3	8.9	39.0	22.0	4.2
Professional or managerial	73.0	13.1	59.4	29.2	‡
Services, sales, or support	55.9	9.2	36.0	23.3	4.7
Trades	34.6	3.9	21.3	11.9	7.1
Not employed in past 12 months	25.8	2.7	4.5	19.4	2.8

‡Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹Among those ages 16–24, full-time participation for all or part of the year in a college or university credential program or a vocational or technical diploma program was not counted as an adult education activity.

²Includes basic skills training, apprenticeships, and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses.

³Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: The survey population includes civilian, noninstitutionalized individuals age 16 and above who are not enrolled in elementary or secondary school. See the glossary for a definition of adult education. The sample includes individuals who do not speak English, and this is likely to affect the participation rates for Hispanics. Percentages for individual activities do not sum to the overall participation because individuals may participate in multiple activities. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on educational attainment and employment status.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AELL–NHES:2001), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Participation in Adult Education

Table S8. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 and above who participated in adult education, by type of activity: 1991, 1995, 1999, and 2001

Type of activity	1991	1995	1999	2001
Overall participation	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.5
Work-related courses	—	0.2	0.5	0.2
Personal interest courses	—	0.3	0.6	0.5
College or university credential programs	—	0.4	0.6	0.5
Other activities	—	0.1	0.3	0.3

—Data not available for 1991.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AELL–NHES:2001), and Adult Education Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AE–NHES:1991, 1995, and 1999), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Participation in Adult Education

Table S8-1. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 and above participating in adult education activities, by type of activity: 1991, 1995, 1999, and 2001

Type of activity	1991	1995	1999	2001
Age 16 and above				
Overall participation	0.71	0.49	0.75	0.52
College or university credential programs	—	0.17	0.50	0.23
Work-related courses	—	0.33	0.63	0.47
Personal interest courses	—	0.35	0.57	0.54
Other activities	—	0.11	0.33	0.25
Ages 16–24				
Overall participation	1.45	1.13	2.76	2.02
College or university credential programs	—	0.70	1.35	1.32
Work-related courses	—	0.87	1.56	1.67
Personal interest courses	—	0.81	2.36	1.58
Other activities	—	0.63	1.79	1.37
Age 25 and above				
Overall participation	0.73	0.53	0.79	0.53
College or university credential programs	—	0.15	0.52	0.22
Work-related courses	—	0.35	0.68	0.51
Personal interest courses	—	0.39	0.60	0.53
Other activities	—	0.10	0.26	0.22

—Data not available for 1991.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AELL–NHES:2001), and Adult Education Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AE–NHES:1991, 1995, and 1999), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).

Participation in Adult Education

Table S8-2. Standard errors for the percentage of population age 16 and above participating in adult education activities, by type of activity and personal characteristics: 2001

Characteristic	Overall participation	Type of adult education activity			
		College or university credential programs	Work-related courses	Personal interest courses	Other activities
Total	0.52	0.23	0.47	0.54	0.25
Sex					
Male	0.81	0.37	0.73	0.72	0.44
Female	0.75	0.36	0.67	0.71	0.25
Race/ethnicity					
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.77	‡	3.75	2.72	‡
Black	1.49	0.81	1.46	1.51	0.69
White	0.57	0.28	0.54	0.59	0.22
Hispanic	2.28	0.81	1.23	1.59	1.53
Education					
Less than high school	1.51	0.24	0.72	1.28	1.18
High school diploma or equivalent	0.95	0.32	0.85	0.82	0.30
Some college, including vocational/technical	1.05	0.72	1.00	1.04	0.54
Bachelor's degree or higher	1.11	0.55	1.06	1.03	0.25
Age					
16–24	2.02	1.32	1.67	1.58	1.37
25–34	1.58	0.80	1.30	1.27	0.78
35–44	1.19	0.54	1.18	0.77	0.43
45–54	1.35	0.39	1.38	1.20	0.40
55–64	1.48	‡	1.34	1.32	‡
65 and above	1.09	‡	0.40	1.08	‡
Household income					
\$15,000 or less	1.61	0.60	0.99	1.39	0.98
\$15,001–30,000	1.32	0.55	0.99	1.05	0.76
\$30,001–50,000	1.30	0.65	1.10	1.16	0.48
\$50,001–75,000	1.47	0.65	1.28	1.29	0.41
More than \$75,000	1.30	0.60	1.20	0.93	0.36
Employment/occupation					
Employed in past 12 months	0.67	0.29	0.61	0.64	0.34
Professional or managerial	1.12	0.66	1.19	1.03	‡
Services, sales, or support	0.93	0.48	0.85	0.87	0.56
Trades	1.27	0.55	1.05	1.01	0.81
Not employed in past 12 months	0.90	0.33	0.47	0.87	0.39

‡Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Adult Education and Lifelong Learning Survey of the National Household Education Surveys Program (AELL–NHES:2001), previously unpublished tabulation (January 2003).